

Sovereign Grace Church

“What We ARE” outline

March 31, 2019

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

We have seen that according to biblical teaching, we human beings were originally created, along with everything else, very good. Unlike everything else we were created to bear God's own image. We were created as persons of a particular kind. We were embodied souls with the capacity to move our bodies in the same way God moves the universe....by will-power alone! Further as we cooperate with

God and one another we find a power of production and cultivation with reference to the rest of creation. We were given dominion....not to force our will on the rest of creation but, under God's direction, to take responsibility for the care and nurture of this world.

However, this good and peaceful situation did not endure as Satan successfully tempted our first parents in the garden and they rebelled against our Creator and started down the dismal path of self-destruction. However, we did not lose our value, as God's image was still clearly stamped on our being, although in a very twisted & wrongly directed way. Instead of exercising dominion for God we exercised it for ourselves and inevitably came into conflict with all who oppose us. Such a situation only goes from bad to worse on a personal and moral level and in the end it will result in complete incoherence and the demise of the world system for which we are responsible.

Our situation was dire and acutely critical. But God's love could not be suppressed and His power was without limit. His redemption would have to proceed from outside mankind but would have to be at the same time of a human nature. The scriptures main emphasis is an explanation and invitation to a redemption which is of us but also from outside of us at the same time. To this we will turn in today's lesson.

1. We are all of Adam's Race and thus of Adam's Disposition!

Rom. 5: 18a; Eph. 2:1

- **Sin and separation Ac. 17: 28**
- **Positive and Negative Matt. 4: 17**
- **No hope from within Adam I Cor 15:22a**

2. To be redeemed there must be a transference from living in Adam to living in Christ.

I Cor. 15: 22b; I Cor. 2: 14

- **Necessity of the New Birth Jn. 3:3**

- **Necessity of a Triune God Matt. 27: 46b**

- **From Sin and Unto Life I Pet. 2:24; Jn 17:3; Jn 10:10; Jn 4:14**

- **Choosing to Live by choosing to Die Lk 9: 23-24**

- 3. As redeemed people we are called to follow Jesus as His disciples.
Matt. 28: 28b-20; Matt 4: 19-20; Jn 8: 31-32**

 - **Cost of Discipleship Matt. 20: 25-28**

 - **Goal of Discipleship: Change of natural dispositions
Eph. 5: 1-2; Rom 12:12**

 - **The irony of Satan's temptation to Eve**

Concluding Remark

Questions for Reflection or Conversation

- 1. Have you been born? How do you know? Have you been born again? How do you know that? What would be different about you if you were born again that would not be the case if you had not been?**

- 2. What has to happen in order for someone to repent of their sins and enter Christ's Kingdom? Why must this happen?**

- 3. In redemption, what are we saved from? Into what positive condition does our redemption deliver us?**

- 4. Is spiritual transformation a once-for-all event? What is it? How do regeneration, conversion, justification, transformation and glorification all fit together?**

- 5. What is your “call” as one redeemed in Christ? What do you think of the quote from Mother Teresa?**